PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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Members of the public are requested to make a free present of any suitable old Tamil books they can spare for the perusal, in their leisure time, of our soldiers outside India.

Books so given will be handed over to the Superintendent of the State Press, who will arrange to despatch them.

LECTURE CLX.

SWEAT AND TEARS PAYING DIVIDENDS.

David Low.

(Condensed from a B. B. C. talk).

I heard of a boy once who got into trouble when his school report came home, because he was so backward in history.

"History is important", said his father, "why can't you do your history?"

"I was good at history", said little Willie, "but there's been a lot more history since your time."

True enough, this boy is now a father himself, when his son brings him that excuse, there will be more reason in it.

A few days ago, the Allied armada of 2,000 ships put out to break into the so-called Fortress of Europe. In my day history books gave a whole page to the Spanish armada, a smaller affair which never got anywhere, anyway. By the time the story of the present show is finished, it ought to be good for 10 pages more to be learned by future little Willies.

Our boys have taken a long leap over the water and landed squarely. Whatever trials may be ahead, so far the story is one of success.

PAYING DIVIDENDS.

Well, here in London, to use a hackneyed phrase, we remain calm. It is too early for foolish exultation. Anyway, the British are a peculiar people, rather good at

remaining calm. It may be due to the blind confidence of simple hearts aggravated by living on an island. It may be due just to the consciousness of rectitude. At times, may be, we overdo it.

Certainly it was a bit of worry to our leaders when we had less to be calm about than we have now. Thrice-armed is he who has his quarrel just, is all very well, but there are lots of people whose quarrel was just enough but who are at this moment conquered slaves. Fortunately, we all have muscle. The events of to-day are the outcome—blood, sweat and tears are now paying dividends.

FULL OF FIGHT.

We stand full of fight on Axis soil. We can now be calm with some justification.

In Berlin and Rome, Axis successes used to be announced with fanfares of trumpets. Well, they will have to start using something else now. The depressing outlook in the South is matched by the depressing outlook in the East ; gone indeed are the palmy days of the *blitzkrieg*.

But Nazi Germany is calm too, so we are told, and confident. Confidence means much to Hitler. He spends time and pains in driving into German boys the idea that they can't be beaten. Before he came to power it was his grievance that Germans had been told that Germany was beaten in the last war, which, according to him, was a foul lie. They had just not won it.

PEP TALKS.

Listening to this wizard of words, the reality of 1918 was forgotten and German youths came to believe him. Necessarily their belief was somewhat brittle, subject to cracks if put to the test and if belied by events. Outwardly the belief remains because the big margin of gain won by Nazi violence at the beginning is still there, only lately things have been going noticeably wrong ; one would hardly know there were cracks yet, were it not for the way that Dr. Goebbels and his assistants go about them at the top of their voices in proving that they are not there.

More and more fantastic become the pep talks to the Home front. Fear not, Sicily is of no importance ; the battles in Russia are of no importance ; our bombers will repay wicked Britain (some time) ; our U-boats will turn the tables (one day).

Well, that line may go over within Hitler's European concentration camp, isolated as it is from facts, but it is no good outside. Even in Axis Spain, Franco, an associate more prudent than his friends, doesn't believe it.

A DIFFERENT LINE.

To the outside world Hitler has a different line. As his military weapons are blunted, he sharpens his political weapons. If he cannot shoot us with guns, he would strangle us with words ; he would tie us in such knots that we won't know which way we are going ; even at this eleventh hour he would tell us a tale that would make our soldiers drop their tommy-guns and feel for their hankies to wipe away their tears of remorse for their own wickedness.

He would even make us think that we are "him" and he is "us". Forthwith comes a flood of perverted logic and lopsided arguments to prove that Nazism is innocent, democracy is guilty ; that Hitler is a man of power, chosen by his people, and Churchill

and Roosevelt are wicked dictators who have imposed themselves on Britain and the United States; and who started the world war, who invented the hideous horror of bombing, who torture prisoners; innocent Germany, Italy and Japan had unwillingly to take their bombs to defend themselves from those unprovoked assaults.

Tut-tut! God will protect innocent Germany, Italy and Japan against these barbarians, determined to lay waste civilisation.

NAZI LOGIC.

Well, I have said many times in the past that the Nazis would wind up by declaring that it was the British and not themselves that invaded Poland on that fatal September day in 1939.

I suppose a great number of people are like a neighbour of mine, a simple person, of more heart than head, who found in his newspaper a report of a Nazi broadcast. "Good Lord", says my friend, "we are at war with Hitler and his friends and determined to beat them. so I don't suppose it matters now, but *did* we start the war, *did* we invent bombing? It is all so long ago and such a lot has happened that I forget."

Well, it does matter very much that we should not forget; it matters very much to the enemy that we should, so much so that he works 24 hours a day trying to help us to forget.

THEN AND NOW.

You know what Hitler thinks of the intelligence of ordinary people, the basic assumption of his whole propaganda system? Listen to this: "The receptive powers of the masses are very restricted and their understanding is feeble. On the other hand, they quickly forget."

You can read it for yourself. We are supposed to be boneheads. We are not supposed to remember what happened yesterday.

Yesterday: "Heil! our invincible armies will wipe everybody off the map, war is grand!" To-day: "Halt, the bloodthirsty warmongers are murdering us, war is brutal". We are not supposed to remember what happened yesterday—Hitler, the man who didn't want war.

We are supposed to forget the young gang leader of Bavaria who from way back in the early thirties was forming the Nazi Party with a programme of rearming Germany for the purpose of acquiring fresh territory. "Acquiring fresh territory"—beautiful phrase—sounds better than "kill your neighbours and pinch their land". Hitler himself said once, "During my youth nothing used to damp my spirits, so much as to think of the future delivered over to peaceful competition among the nations, and my life having to be peaceful and orderly."

SUPPOSED TO FORGET.

Now you can read that over for yourself too, it is on record. You are supposed to forget the uneasy years during which after muddling his way into power, he built up what was the most formidable war machine in history; how he helped to commence Civil War in Spain, so that he could give it a preliminary try-out; how he was actually peevish when it was unnecessary for him to put his outfit into real action at last in Czechoslovakia; how at the next opportunity he took no chances, went right ahead and began his war.

We must not forget these things, when the Nazis, so to speak, reverse the charges and apply to us the denunciations which properly apply to themselves. Just now, when the air is full of their wails and curses about the horrors of bombing—our bombing, that is, not theirs, just recall the enormous bombing force that they built up in Germany when we had hardly a feather to fly with.

CALLOUS BRUTALITY.

More is the pity, they blasted Warsaw and Rotterdam almost before we knew there was a war on. They explain Warsaw now, of course, by claiming it was a fortress under assault. Well, according to Hitler himself, all Europe is a fortress now, and he can't have it both ways.

Remember, when they circulate their ridiculous tales of our cruelty and torture, these are the same people who enslaved callous brutality to a political policy with a special government department to ensure the efficient massacre of hundreds of thousands of helpless men, women and children, whose only crime was they were born.

We should refresh our memories with these thoughts at times, not to nurse bitterness, but so that we may not forget what the war is about. It does matter very considerably that we should have before us clearly, what we are fighting against and what we are fighting for.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

14—8—43 to 20—8—43.

Sicily.—The Sicilian campaign is over—40 days after the first landing. The German evacuation began as early as July 30. With the occupation of MESSINA on the morning of Aug. 17 all fighting ceased.

The whole of SICILY is now in Allied hands. The island is not only the biggest but also, the most valuable, strategically, in the Mediterranean. It is divided from the mainland by a strip of sea only two miles wide. Whoever owns SICILY will have easy access to ITALY.

Earlier in the week the following places were occupied :—RIPOSTO, GIARRA, MILO, PIRAINO, RANDAZZO and FLORESTA. The Americans also made two amphibious landings near CAPE ORLANDO and at MILAZZO.

Italy.—ROME, MILAN, TURIN and the air-fields at FOGGIA, TORTORELLA, and SAN NICOLA have been bombed. Rome Radio reports that a large invasion fleet has been sighted off CATANIA.

Russia.—KHARKOV is under Soviet fire. The Germans have switched a big part of their reserves in a desperate all-out effort to hold up the Soviet advance around and beyond the city. 50 German Divisions, east of the Dneiper, in the DONBAS, the KUBAN and the CRIMEA are threatened. Of the two escape corridors the KHARKOV-POLTAVA Railway has been cut. The *Red Star* says, 'very tense battles are in progress, with Soviet troops repulsing concentric German counter-attacks supported by tanks and aircraft'.

During the week, AKHTYRA, SUMY and CHUGUYEV near KHARKOV were taken.

On the **Bryansk** front, KHOTYNETS, KARACHEV and ZHIDRA have fallen. The Red Army has advanced within 15 miles of BRYANSK—the great hedge-hog base at the hinge of the German central and southern fronts.

Smolensk is threatened by a double move from SPASS DEMENSK and ZANOZNAYA. A gap of 25 miles has been made. 100 villages have been taken.

Fresh Russian offensives have been launched in the NOVOROSSISK and IZYUM areas.

Air-war over Europe :—

August 11.—In a surprise sweep off BRITTANY 6 Axis ships were sunk.

August 12.—The oil-fields at GELSENKIRCHEN and WESSELRING and the production factories at BONN were attacked. On the same day and on the 16th BERLIN had its 68th and 69th raids.

August 13.—On this day the first bombs fell on AUSTRIA in Greater GERMANY. The Messerschmitts aircraft factories at Wiener Neustadt near VIENNA were hit and 400 new machines were destroyed.

August 17.—The air-fields at ISTRES, LETUBE, and SALON, near MARSEILLES were attacked. This is the first raid on South FRANCE.

The Pacific.—The *Kurile Islands* which form a series of stepping-stones between the Japanese mainland and the American base of KAMCHATKA in the ALEUTIANS, were successfully bombed.

Balik Papan, the oil-port of BORNEO was raided on Friday last, after a flight of 2,500 miles—'the longest mass-bombing mission ever flown in any theatre of war'. The bombers flew through thunder-storms and clouds. At least 7 refineries were blown up. A 6,000-ton tanker was also set on fire.

Allied ground troops have captured the island of *Vella Lavella* in the SOLOMONS, capturing 350 enemy refugees. This makes the enemy position at VILA on KOLOMBANGARA Island precarious.

A mass attack was carried out on a Japanese air-group in the *Wewak* area in NEW GUINEA. Over 10,000 fragmentation and incendiary bombs were dropped. Over 120 enemy aircraft were destroyed and 50 severely damaged. Commenting on this victory General Mac Arthur has stated: 'It was a crippling blow at an opportune moment. Numerically the opposing forces were about equal in strength but one was in the air and the other was not. Nothing is so helpless as an aircraft on the ground. In war, surprise is decisive'.

In NEW GEORGIA U. S. ground forces continue to advance against BAIROKO harbour.

China.—The Chinese attacked the Japanese-occupied LIMPUR railway station in CHEKIANG, and YUHAN City in E. KWANTUNG. They also counter-attacked in the direction of HUNGMEI City, inflicting 300 Japanese casualties.

In Central CHINA the Japanese Air Force launched attacks against the Chinese air-bases at HENGYANG, CHANGSHA, PINGKIANG, LIYYANG and YINGTIEN. They also machine-gunned CHANGSHA and bombed TINGTIEN.

Burma.—The following targets were attacked:—

August 9.—SEDAH; river shipping near MANDALAY; railroad installations at PAUKHAN.

August 10.—AKYAB and PYAWBWE.

August 12.—River craft in the Chindwin.

August 13.—Railway communications and Japanese positions near MANDALAY and MYINGYAN; KALEMYO; SANDOWAY, DIAMOND ISLAND, SHWEBO, YE, KINU, KATHA, KANNI, MALI, MYINMU, NAT KAYAING, ZIGON and TAUTABIN.

August 14.—AKYAB Island and town; KANHLA; ALLANMYO and BUTHIDAUNG.

August 15.—CHATHAM Island (ANDAMANS).

August 17.—KANHLA; sampans along the Irrawaddy and in the Mayu, Kaladan and Kywegu rivers.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

9—8—43. (Monday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

Day:—
Road and rail targets in Northern FRANCE.
Sweeps over FRANCE (7 enemy planes destroyed; 3 Allied planes missing).

NIGHT:—
Industrial cities of MANNHEIM and LUDWIGSHAFEN.
Enemy air-fields and railways in FRANCE and LOW COUNTRIES. (9 Allied planes missing; 2 enemy planes missing).

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.
Communications, roads and railway bridges in South ITALY.
Road junctions at MESSINA (Sicily).
Motor transport and roads behind the enemy lines in SICILY.
Shipping off SICILY.

RUSSIA.
(84 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.
The airbase and harbour at VILA (Kolambangara).
Jap installations in KURILE Islands.
Jap base at SALAMAUA (New Georgia).
AMBOINA (Dutch E. Indies).
KAI and **TANIMBAR** Islands.
Railroad reversing station at SEDAW (Burma).
River shipping north of MANDALAY.
Railroad installations at PAUKHAN (Burma).
Irrawaddy river ports of KATHA and BHAMO (Burma).

10—8—43 (Tuesday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—(3 enemy planes destroyed; 16 Allied planes missing).
Railway and industrial centres in South GERMANY.

NIGHT:—
NUREMBURG (Germany).

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.
Communications and other targets in ITALY.
Railway yards at TERNI (Italy).
Trains and motor transport in South ITALY.
Landing craft in the Straits of MESSINA and in the beaches in the TOE of ITALY.

RUSSIA.
(86 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.
Japanese installations at SALAMAUA (N. Guinea).
The port of AKYAB (Burma).
Barracks at PYAWBWE (Burma).
Barges on the IRRAWADDY.

11—8—43 (Wednesday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—
Axis vessels off BRITTANY.
Communications and transport in FRANCE and BELGIUM.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.
Railway communications at TERNI (Italy).
Railway sidings at SAN GIOVANNI.
PREVEZA (Greece).
Communications and German troops in North-east SICILY.

RUSSIA
(48 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.
Railway junctions at POLTAVA and KRASNOGRAD.

FAR EAST.
KISKA (Aleutians).
The air-field at VILA (Kolambangara).
Jap occupied villages in the AKYAB area (Burma).

12—8—43. (Thursday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—
Synthetic oil factories at GELSENKIRCHEN and WESSELRING (Germany).
Industrial target at BONN (Ruhr).
An enemy air-field at POIX (France) and at COURTRAI and MERVILLE (25 Allied bombers missing).

NIGHT:—
BERLIN (capital of Germany).
Air-fields and railways in FRANCE and the LOW COUNTRIES.
Enemy shipping off FRANCE. (11 Allied bombers missing).

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Industries and communications at MILAN (Italy).
Industries and railways at TURIN.
An enemy vessel in PAROS Bay.
Communications in South ITALY.
Communications and Axis troops in North-east SICILY.

RUSSIA.

(73 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Fuel dumps at KAIMANA (Dutch N. Guinea).
Air-field at TIMEOKA (Dutch N. Guinea).
Buildings at FINSCHHAFEN.
A river boat in the CHINDWIN (Burma).
A bridge north-east of MONYWA (Burma).
Rail terminal of YE (Burma).
Rolling stock at KINU (Burma).
Reversing station at SEDAW.
A river steamer in the CHINDWIN (Burma).
Barges near KATHA, KANNI and MALI (Burma) and also near SAGAING and MYINMU.
Railroad targets at ZIGON and TANTABIN (Burma).
Marshalling yards at MYINGAN (Burma).

13—8—43 (Friday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—

Production factories and assembly plant at WEINER NEUSTADT (Austria). (Very heavily damaged).

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Shipping off SARDINIA.
Communications in south SARDINIA.
Enemy shipping in the Straits of MESSINA.
ROME (capital of Italy).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

The harbour at BAIROKO (New Georgia).
The Jap base at SALAMAUA (New Guinea).
The air-field at BUIN (Solomons).
Railway communications south of MANDALAY and south-east of MYINGYAN (Burma).
Jap positions at KALEMYO (Burma).
SANDOWAY and **GWA** on the ARAKAN coast (Burma).
A motor vessel off DIAMOND Island.
Railroad installations at SHWEBO (Burma).

14—8—43 (Saturday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

EVENING:—

Enemy air-fields at ST. OMER, POINT POIX, AMIENS, VITRY, ENATROIS, LILLE and MERVILLE (all in France) and VISSINGEN (Holland).
Railway centre at ABBEVILLE (France).
Sweep over Northern FRANCE.

NIGHT:—

BERLIN (capital of Germany).
Air-fields in FRANCE and BELGIUM.
One E-boat near the CHANNEL Islands.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Breda armament works at MILAN (Italy).
Troops and barges on the beaches on both sides of MESSINA Straits.

RUSSIA.

(64 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.
Railway junctions of POLTAVA, KRASNOGRAD and ROSLAVI.

FAR EAST.

The oil port of BALIK PAPAN (Borneo).
The waterfront at KOEPANG (Timor).
The village of TENAU and **the air-field** at PENFOEI (Timor).
Objectives on AKYAB Island including AKYAB town (Burma).
Sampans along the IRRAWADDY.
A large warehouse at SANDOWAY (Burma).
A large hut near SHAUK-KON (Burma).
Factory buildings at ALLANMYO (Burma).
Buildings at BUTHIDAUNG (Burma).

15—8—43. (Sunday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—

An axis ship off CHERBOURG Peninsula.
Sweeps over FRANCE, BELGIUM and HOLLAND.
The air-field at ST. OMER.

NIGHT:—

BERLIN (capital of Germany).
Laying mines in enemy waters.
Enemy air-fields and railway targets in FRANCE. (12 Allied planes missing).

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Railway installations at SAPRI and SIBARI (Italy).
Enemy communications in south ITALY.
Railway yards at VITERBO (Italy).
Railway communications and ferry terminus at SAN GIOVANNI.
Landing ground at KALAMATA (Greece).
Barges, troops and other transport in the straits of MESSINA.

RUSSIA.

(59 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

The air-field at KAHILI.
Jap barges from REIN Bay to STETTIN Bay (New Britain).
Jap installations at TALA Sea and WALINDI plantations.
Villages near CAPE GLOUCESTER (N. Britain).
ARAWE (N. Britain).
Enemy installations on CHATHAN Island (Andamans).
Villages in the AKYAB area (Burma).

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

10—8—43 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

No information.

RUSSIA.

No enemy air activity.

FAR EAST.

RENDOVA Island (Solomons).

11—8—43 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No information.

12—8—43 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

A town on the South-west coast of ENGLAND.
Other places on the South-west coast of ENGLAND.

RUSSIA.

Air combats over KHARKOV.

FAR EAST.

No information.

13—8—43 (Friday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.

No information.

FAR EAST.

KARAIWINA Island (near New Guinea).
Port DARWIN (Australia).

14—8—43 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.

Air combats over KARACHEV.

FAR EAST.

No information.

15—8—43 (Sunday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.

No information.

FAR EAST.

Air combats over VELLA LOVELLA (34 Jap planes shot down; 2 Allied planes missing).

16—8—43 (Monday).

BRITAIN.

THAMES Estuary and the **LONDON area** (only an alert).

RUSSIA.

No information.

FAR EAST.

Air combats over VELLA LOVELLA (34 Jap planes shot down).

SIDE LIGHTS.

THE QUEBEC CONFERENCE. Allied Military Chiefs and Statesmen meet once more, this time in QUEBEC, to arrive at decisions which may have results even more far reaching than those of CASABLANCA. Mr. Churchill has already arrived and has held a three-day talk with Mr. Roosevelt at Hyde Park, NEW YORK STATE. Mr. Roosevelt will attend the conference when it is held. Mr. Eden has come, and after the consultations are over he will proceed to MOSCOW to meet Stalin.

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ITS OBJECTIVE. The Conference is reported to be of a double character, both political and military. The Anglo-American campaign in N. W. AFRICA had yielded greater results than were anticipated. The Sicilian campaign had come to a close sooner than expected. Mr. Churchill has promised 'heavy fighting in the Mediterranean and *elsewhere*, before the leaves of autumn fall'. The question now arises, 'where else?' Air-Marshal Sir P.B. Joubert De La Ferte has observed enigmatically, 'Other courses are open to us' after remarking that 'The Allies need not weaken themselves in ITALY to reach only the barrier of the Alps'. If so, what are the other courses? Stalin has asked again for a Second Front, meaning Hitler's West Wall, which will divert 30 divisions of the Hun—the minimum necessary to relieve pressure on the Eastern Front. A new offensive must therefore be planned in conjunction with Stalin. Substantial reinforcements from U. S. and CANADA have arrived. Military encampments and American air-bases have sprung up all over BRITAIN. The campaigning season of fine and settled weather is approaching. A big thrust, which may be at any point from the North Cape to the Bay of Biscay, is in the making? Where is the blow to fall? The instruments of Victory are ready—both men and weapons. How is the Victory to be won so as to secure the total defeat of the enemy, his unconditional surrender? Again, how is this Victory to be expedited, so as to shorten the days of anguish and suffering for the oppressed. If diplomacy should be brought to the aid of the military arm, what then remains to be done? As the *New York Times* has said: 'GERMANY is still defensively strong. In the diplomatic field she may be ready to take the offensive. The time has come for a diplomatic counter-offensive from our side. The battle must still be fought by violent means, but can be fought also by wisdom and foresight'. So statesmen and warriors are meeting round the Council table at QUEBEC.

HISTORIC. This is the 6th meeting of the kind between Churchill and Roosevelt and there is no doubt that it will prove to be as historic as the other five. The first (August 1941) on board the H. M. S. *Prince of Wales* led to the drawing up of the Atlantic Charter; the second (December 1941) at WASHINGTON after PEARL HARBOUR, led to the U. S. declaration of war; the third (June 1942), also at WASHINGTON, decided shipping questions; the fourth (January 1943) at CASABLANCA planned the Axis defeat in AFRICA and formulated the Allied determination to exact unconditional surrender from the Axis; the fifth (May 1943) at WASHINGTON led to the Sicilian Campaign and South-west Pacific Offensive, which has resulted in the fall of MUNDA and MUBO. We may be sure that the 6th meeting and the forthcoming Conference at QUEBEC will lead to results equally momentous.

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WHY QUEBEC? QUEBEC is the capital of CANADA. CANADA has won her spurs in the Sicilian Campaign. Her soldiers are spoiling for a fight. Hers is a convenient focal point for Canadian, U. S., British and Soviet representatives to meet. CANADA is the largest air-training centre of the British Commonwealth. CANADA ranks *fourth* in the production of war materials, surpassed only by the U. S. RUSSIA and GREAT BRITAIN—as the following figures will show. They represent CANADA's weekly production, of which 70% is shipped to the Allies:—

Aeroplanes—80; motor vehicles—4,000; fighting vehicles—450; escort, cargo, or petrol vessels—6; heavy guns—940; small weapons—13,000; heavy ammunition—525,000 rounds; small arms ammunition—25,000,000 rounds; chemicals and explosives—10,000 tons; instruments and communications equipment—Rs. 12,000,000 worth.

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THE ITALIAN JANUS. Last week we described Badoglio as Janus-faced. The Rome Radio has since sued for generous terms on the pretext that Fascist organisations have been abolished and free elections will be held after the war.

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FASCISM STILL. But facts belie protestations. Though the symbols of Fascism have been removed Fascism, that is, authoritarianism, remains. Mussolini has gone but Badoglio is equally irresponsible. Nothing has inwardly changed except the head of the Government. The Badoglio régime is as ruthless in suppressing the freedom of the Press and free speech as Mussolini's. Peace demonstrations in MILAN are punished; strikes are repressed and the workers are forced back to factories.

The Germans describe the fall of Mussolini as a revolution from above carried out in order to prevent a revolution from below. Recently Ribbentrop paid a three-day visit to ROME to confer with the new Government.

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GERMAN INFILTRATION. The Germans have completely occupied TRIESTE and the ISTRIAN PENINSULA at the head of the Adriatic, isolating ITALY's 20 divisions in the BALKANS from the homeland. They have also seized control of strategic points in LOMBARDY. Yet they seem to have met with no protest from the Italian Government. Badoglio has a soft corner in his heart for the Germans.

The Italian people have clearly manifested their wishes—the overthrow of Fascism, immediate peace, and democratic liberty. Fascism has been overthrown in name but

its substance remains. The other two demands also remain unfulfilled. What can happen next? Badoglio also may go, or Revolt and Anarchy must follow.

In the circumstances, the Allied duty is clear. In the words of Mr. Herbert Morrison, the British Home Secretary, 'We have not fought Fascism and overthrown it in order that it may come in again by the back door under another name. Whatever name is given to a Fascist anti-democratic régime in ITALY, it will always be a menace to the Italian people and the peace of EUROPE.'

The Algiers Radio has warned the Italians in no uncertain terms, 'you have been betrayed by Mussolini. Now Pietro Badoglio is betraying you. 200,000 of your soldiers are isolated by trickery. Your soldiers are being disarmed by the Germans. Badoglio has done nothing for peace.'

After this warning, the bombing of ITALY has been renewed. On Aug. 12 and 13 MILAN and ROME were bombed again, and they will continue to be bombed till ITALY surrenders unconditionally. Allied control over Italian territory also will not cease until GERMANY has been defeated.

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ROME AN OPEN CITY? The Italian Government have announced ROME to be an open city through the intermediary of the Holy See. But it is one of those matters that Churchill and Roosevelt will decide at QUEBEC. The Italian Government's declaration will not be effective until the city has been certified to be non-military by the protective power. It would involve the cessation of military movements over ROME's railways, the withdrawal of troops from the city and the closure of all armaments factories there. Presumably an Allied commission will have to visit ROME to supervise the carrying out of these stipulations. The declaration, so far, is unilateral.

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THE EVACUATION OF BERLIN. It is significant that Hitler also is busy holding conferences at his headquarters, not only with Goering, Himmler, Goebbels and Ribbentrop but with the chiefs of his land and air-forces also. The presence of Ribbentrop shows the political nature of his talks, and that of Himmler the trouble that is brewing at home. The Nazis have now enough to do, as they have not merely their party and the Army to hold together but also the people at large. The recent 'evacuations' of the Russian cities, so tenaciously held till now under Hitler's orders, indicate that Hitler is being practically superseded by the German staff. Hitler and the Army have not yet come to the parting of the ways, but Hitler's control of the Army is weakening every day.

Preparations are now going forward for the withdrawal of the German Government from BERLIN which has now become the frequent target of the R. A. F. The Foreign Office and the Ministry of Propaganda have been transferred to VIENNA, and the War Office to an unspecified town. On August 13, BERLIN had its 65th raid.

The Allies are preparing to strike while the iron is hot. The biggest onslaught in history is under way. By using not more than a mere fraction of the Allied strength SICILY has fallen in a matter of 40 days. The bulk of the Allied armies is in reserve. The King has inspected the Home Fleet. Huge swarms of the R. A. F. have of late been

seen off the cliffs of Dover almost every day in their mission over GERMANY. Fear has come to the Germans, and when it develops into panic not all the repression of Himmler can stop it.

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THE BALKAN BAROMETER. S. E. EUROPE beckons to the Allies. The raids on PLOESTI, the Partisan Victories in YUGO-SLAVIA, the substitution of German for Italian troops in GREECE and ALBANIA, the anti-war demonstrations in HUNGARY and RUMANIA are indications. The BALKAN STATES would, if they could, effect their escape from Hitler's camp, before matters become worse. They realise that the chances of any Axis success have faded out. Of the 300 divisions the Germans are said to possess, 190 are tied up in the East, 50 in the West, 37 in ITALY and 12 in Occupied EUROPE on police duty. Reserves are used to defend the BALKANS. The Nazi repression in the BALKANS is growing—another indication that the Nazi hold is weakening. In its broadcast of August 7 the B. B. C. said, 'Be patient a little longer. Nazis, faced with new dangers, are likely to strike even more savagely than before.'

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THE SICILIAN CAMPAIGN has come to an end, after 40 days of strenuous fighting. The German evacuation began as early as July 30. With the occupation of MESSINA on Aug. 17 all resistance ended. The Axis losses up to Aug. 10 totalled 167,000 in killed, wounded and prisoners, 260 tanks, 502 guns and 1,013 aircraft. "The campaign is a standing testimony to the supremacy of the Allied Navies, Allied air supremacy, and the determination of the Allied land forces to engage and defeat the enemy wherever they may encounter them".

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THE RUSSIAN FRONT. OREL has fallen and KHARKOV is falling. But the Nazi pretends that OREL, which he held for two years nearly, is worthless, and that it was 'evacuated', 'according to plan', 'without pressure from the enemy.' Lord Haw-Haw adds that it was not 'contested'; but it is the Saigon radio which reaches the height of mendacity by saying that the fighting still rages around OREL. The Germans have a way of describing their defeats. When RZHEV fell they said, 'German rear-guards disengaged themselves'; when GZATSK surrendered, they said they had 'left it to the enemy'; when TUNISIA was evacuated, they stated, 'that the situation was rectified without the Americans even knowing it'; and now they call the Sicilian successes a failure because the operations were not completed in 48 hours, as the Allies had expected; it had broken the Allied heart.

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THE U-BOAT HUNT. The Roosevelt-Churchill statement on the failure of the U-boat war, which we reprint elsewhere, comes none too soon in view of the exaggerated claims that the enemy is making of the tonnage sunk in the first seven months of this year. Fabulous figures are given for a total of 7 months, in order to conceal the poor results of the last three months. Since June, sinkings of U-boats have increased simultaneously with the throttling of new U-boat production at HAMBURG. About the actual position at present, Heinrich Schtich, the German U-boat Headquarters Spokesman, spoke the truth on August 5, when he broadcast, 'The enemy defence in the Atlantic has got the better of us.' The Roosevelt-Churchill statement is only a confirmation of the fact. It shows that the U-boat campaign has yielded poor results of late, in spite of wide-spread activities, as is indeed proved by the

free-flow of men and war materials through the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. During the months of May, June and July the U-boat sinkings have reached a total of 90, or one a day. In 30 weeks, new ships have been built at 100,000 tons a week, and the total construction exceeds losses by about three million tons. The success is due to two factors, the mastery of the U-boat packs and the closure of the Atlantic Gap called 'The Grave Yard Gap'.

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AIR-WAR. In addition to the raids on GELSENKIRCHEN, WASSELRING, BONN, AUGSBURG and BERLIN new air history was made by the week's attack on Wiener Neustadt in AUSTRIA on Aug. 13, and MARSEILLES in FRANCE on Aug. 17. American bombers made a round trip of 2,500 miles to reach Wiener Neustadt, the home of the Messerschmitts industry. Four hundred of these brand new machines were destroyed. This is the first attack on greater GERMANY from the MIDDLE EAST. The attack on MARSEILLES is the first raid on S. FRANCE.

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NORWAY. The Swedish Radio announces that a state of siege has been proclaimed in NORWAY. Gunnar Eilifsan, the chief of the Civil Department of OSLO Police, was shot for refusing to comply with the order to arrest girls who refused to report for German labour. Under another order of Hitler's all Norwegian officers are being sent to prison camps in GERMANY. The Oslo Radio has also announced that members of the Norwegian Police, the Leaders' Body-guard and the Hird (armed formations of the Quisling Government) are part of the Armed Forces of the Reich.

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THE PACIFIC. The latest Pacific events are the Allied occupation of VELLA LAVELLA Island, in the SOLOMONS, 45 miles North-west of NEW GEORGIA and the raid in force on WEWAK in NEW GUINEA.

Commander Kenneth Edwards, Naval Correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, writes that the Japanese losses in cruisers and destroyers have been so heavy that, as in the case of the Italian Navy, the main Fleet may be immobilised on that account. In 1941 JAPAN had 56 cruisers and 156 destroyers, of which only 21 cruisers and 78 destroyers now remain. This is a rate of attrition that no navy can stand. Both the Japanese and the Italian navies were reluctant to let their heavy ships risk encounters, and so they sacrificed the light ones. Now that the light ships have perished, the heavy ships cannot venture out for want of support from the light ships.

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DAY OF PRAYER. H. E. The Viceroy, under the commands of His Majesty, has declared September 5 as the Day of Prayer in connection with the 4th Anniversary of the war. In this connection it has been asked what the King-Emperor's message may mean when it says that a great event may occur when the Empire may be called to prayer 'at short notice'. Is it the Second Front ? or the surrender of ITALY ?

Since the beginning of the war there have been 10 days of Prayer. Every one has marked a stage of definite progress towards Victory.

90 U-BOATS SUNK IN 3 MONTHS.

ROOSEVLT—CHURCHILL STATEMENT.

DECLINE IN ALLIED SHIPPING LOSSES.

1. During July very poor results were obtained by U-boats from their widespread efforts against Allied shipping. The steady flow of trans- \tlantic supplies on the greatest scale has continued unmolested, and such sinkings as have taken place in distant areas have had but insignificant effect on the conduct of the war by the Allies.

In fact, July is probably our most successful month, because imports have been high, shipping losses moderate and U boat sinkings heavy.

2. Before the descent upon Sicily, an Armada of warships, troop transports, supply ships, and landing craft proceeded through the Atlantic and Mediterranean waters with scarcely any interference from U-boats, and large reinforcements were landed on that island. Over 2,500 vessels were involved in these operations, and the losses are only about 80,000 tons. On the other hand, U-boats which attempted to interfere with these operations suffered severe losses.

3. Our offensive operations against submarines continue to progress most favourably in all areas. During May, June, and July, we have sunk a total of 90 U-boats, which represents an average loss of one U-boat per day during that period.

4. The decline in the effectiveness of U-boats is illustrated by the following figures. In the first 6 months of 1943, the number of ships sunk by U-boat operations was only half of that in the last 6 months of 1942, and only a quarter of that in the first half of 1942.

The tonnage of shipping in the service of the United Nations continues to show a considerable net increase. During 1943, new ships completed by the Allies exceed sinkings from all causes by upwards of 3,000,000 tons.

In spite of this very favourable progress in the battle against the U-boat, it must be mentioned that the enemy still has a large number of U-boats completed and constructed.

It is necessary, therefore, to prepare for an intensification of the battle, both on the sea and in the shipyards, and to use our shipping with the utmost economy to strengthen and speed the general offensive of the United Nations.

FOR FREEDOM AND SECURITY.

ROOSEVELT REAFFIRMS ATLANTIC CHARTER.

To-day we stand upon the threshold of major developements in this war. We are determined we shall gain a total victory over our enemies, and we recognise the fact that our enemies are not only Germany, Italy and Japan. They are all the forces of oppression, intolerance, insecurity and injustice which have impeded the forward march of civilisation.

AXIS OUT-PRODUCED, OUT-MANOEUVRED.

HOW FREE PEOPLE TROUNCE TOTALITARIANS.

(*The New York Times*).

"Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt told them what they might look forward to. They were told that we were dangerous: they were told that we could out-produce them. They refused to believe it. So we out-produced them. The result is the rise of Allied power around the world.

"They said we could not build ships enough; so we did. Three thousand Allied ships went into the assault on Sicily alone.

"They said the distances were so great that we could not supply even the meagre forces in the S. Pacific. So we took chunks of New Guinea and Solomons away from them with men and aircraft.

"They said the Burma Road was dead for ever, and that there was no other way of supplying China. So Gen. Chennault's fliers are hitting Japanese bases in China, using a hundred aircraft at a time.

"The Allied power is rising around the world. Our aircraft are clouding the skies. Our men in arms now overseas number 2,500,000—or who knows how many more?

"We told them this would happen. We did not want this war, but we told them what would happen. The totalitarians cannot beat a free people."

FUTURE OF ITALY'S MERCHANT NAVY.

NECESSARY FOR IMPORTING COUNTRY'S FOOD.

A. J. MCWHINNIE.

In the world-wide speculation about what will happen to Italian warships, the great importance of the Italian mercantile marine has been largely overlooked.

When the war began, Italy had nearly 3,500,000 tons of merchant shipping. The Allied sea and air power has whittled down that tonnage, until to-day I doubt if Italy has much more than 1,000,000 tons of shipping left. I am including in that estimate 835,000 tons of Vichy shipping acquired by Italy when Hitler marched into the south of France. At the time that Vichy shipping was a great windfall for the Axis. The increased sinkings by the United Nations soon overtook and exceeded that windfall.

If the Italians scuttle their merchant tonnage on German orders, they are cutting their own throats.

The Italians are going to need every available ship to feed themselves. They are surrounded on three sides by sea. Every single freighter is important to them. When they are no longer fighting the United Nations—and in one way or another that day must come—the great Allied blockade will be lifted against them. Those 1,000,000 tons of ships will be needed to bring the Italian people food which can only come across the sea.

They have not been getting food across the Alps from Hitler. In exchange for their priceless Sicilian grain, and for their thousands of gallons of fresh milk from Italy, Hitler sent back to them coal, high explosives, chemicals and war materials.

But Italy must have coal whether living in war or peace. If they sever themselves from the Axis, their coal can come by sea. The obvious place from which it can come is Britain. If they keep their freighters and keep their warships intact, they may one day be conveying their own coal and foodstuffs through the Mediterranean.

Meanwhile, however complicated the Italian war position may appear at the moment, the Allied sea power strategy becomes increasingly clear to the nearest layman.

The command of the sea has undoubtedly given the Allies a long arm which can bridge the biggest oceans. Nations which have sufficient sea strength to carry troops in tens of thousands across the oceans to spots where they are needed most can strike practically where they wish.

Wherever German troops move to in Italy, seaborne armies can reach them. Wherever the Germans withdraw troops to meet new needs in Italy, they leave weak spots. Seapower can follow German troop movements—and strike at weak spots left by the withdrawals.

The British and Allied sea power pattern for victory should become even more clear in the immediate future. The Germans in Italy cannot escape the long arm of sea power however far north they may be forced to retreat.

And so long as German troops remain in Italy, and so long as there are Italians fighting the Allies in Italy, they can be attacked by seaborne armies of the United Nations.

The British Army is still a 'projectile fired by the Royal Navy.'

THE PLOESTI RAID.

200,000 TONS OF PETROL DESTROYED.

(*The Daily Telegraph*).

Fires were raging in the Rumanian oil-fields of Ploesti four days after United States Liberators attacked them, according to information reaching here.

It is estimated that more than 200,000 tons of petroleum have already been destroyed by flames which spread with lightning rapidity.

Squads are now working to cordon off the areas of destruction by demolishing the neighbouring installations. Other units of specialists are dynamiting blazing wells to extinguish fires.

Allied experts estimate that Ploesti's total annual production of oil was about 6,000,000 tons.

An eye-witness has stated that the attack was made in three waves; the first machines over the target dropped high explosive bombs and incendiaries. The second wave besides bombing attacked the main pipelines and storage tanks with machine-gun and cannon fire. The third wave dropped phosphorus bombs on streams of petrol and oil gushing from the smashed pipes and containers, so spreading the fire with the maximum speed over a wide area.

The greater part of Ploesti's drilling apparatus and servicing machines were destroyed, shops where they were stored were being burnt out.

On the day after the attack, Rumanian authorities stopped all civilian car traffic. Buses are no longer run. Bucharest's trams are overcrowded and taxi drivers have marched in protest through the streets of the capital.

The price of petrol in the Rumanian black market has risen 500 per cent.

LIFE SKETCH OF BADOGLIO.

Short, spare, clean-shaven, blunt and reserved, Badoglio, very different from the characteristic Italian, was born in Piedmont in 1871. Lieutenant Colonel in 1914, he became Italy's youngest General in 1916.

His first experience of war was against the Abyssinians in the Adowa campaign in 1896 and since then he has taken part in every fight in which Italy has been engaged. After the retreat from Caporetto in the First World War, he became second-in-command to General Diaz, the Chief of Staff. He re-organised the Italian army, and planned the campaign which led to the victory of Vittorio Veneto. He became Governor of Rome and Chief of Staff in 1925.

When Mussolini led the famous "March on Rome" in October 1922, Badoglio, who was then in command of the Rome garrison, was not among those of the army who sided with the Black Shirts. The story goes that he urged King Victor Emmanuel to give him three battalions and "I will scatter this Black Shirt rabble with a whiff of grape-shot." The King, however, would not agree. "The rabble" won the day.

In the Abyssinian war, the slow progress made by the Italians under Marshal de Bono, Fascist and a former Rome Police Chief, led to his being replaced in November, 1935 by Badoglio, who replanned the entire campaign on new lines. With the liberal use of mustard gas sprayed from airplanes, Badoglio smashed the Abyssinian resistance Within three months he entered Addis Ababa.

He should have retired from the army in November 1939 at the age of 68, but Mussolini confirmed him once more in the post of Chief of the General Staff. When on June 10, 1940, Mussolini entered the war on Germany's side, he delegated Badoglio as Commander-in-Chief of the army. Badoglio was not a member of the Fascist Party until after the Abyssinian war. Then Starace, the Party Secretary, presented him with a card of membership as a part of his reward.

After the French collapse, the Marshal was one of the Italian Commission to fix the terms of armistice with French delegates. This was on June 23, 1940.

Five months later, on the humiliating defeats of Italians by Greece, he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Italian army in Albania. He arrived at Tirana on November 28, 1940, but less than a week later, it was announced that he had been relieved at his own request of the post of Chief of the General Staff. Badoglio returned to Italy and bade farewell to Mussolini on December 9, 1940. What passed between the two men is not known, but the régime of Fascists attacked Badoglio furiously, saying that he had always disapproved of the war on Greece. Neutral observers always believed that in a moment of emergency, Victor Emmanuel would once again turn to the man who stepped into the breach after Caporetto.

ALLIES' DEFENSIVE OFFENSIVE IN SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC.

"FIRST BATTLES FOR DEFEAT OF JAPAN"

(*Lord Strabolgi*).

The combined offensive by American and Australian forces in the South-West Pacific should have important results. After the crippling of American sea power at Pearl Harbour and the British and Dutch naval losses sustained in the attempt to defend Malaya and the Dutch East Indies, the Japanese position was so strong that they were able to make a series of advances until August of last year.

Their conquest of Burma created a serious threat for India and, at the same time, their occupation of the greater part of New Guinea and the islands in the east of it, including the Solomons group, brought them to a position in which they could begin to menace the lines of communication between the Pacific coast of North America and Australia.

American naval recovery was primarily due to the heavy warship building programme begun three years before the Japanese intervention in the world war. Whatever the strength of the American isolationists before the declaration of war on the U. S. by Japan and her European allies, all parties had agreed on the necessity of building a two-ocean navy, and construction of a vast number of warships, authorised by Congress, was well in hand.

American and Australian air forces in this theatre of war have established a marked ascendancy, both numerically and technically, over their opponents. The only advantage the Japanese have enjoyed is possession of forward airfields and naval bases. If these are captured, their situation will become very much worse.

Whether the Japanese can make a great naval diversion depends on whether they are prepared to risk the remnants of their somewhat attenuated naval forces. Since the beginning of hostilities, the Japanese have lost three battleships sunk and another 10 have been heavily damaged. Even allowing for repairs to the latter, it is doubtful

if the Japanese can muster more than half a dozen heavy warships fit to fight in line of battle. It is known that six of the American battleships put out of action at Pearl Harbour are again in commission; it is known also that a strong force of newly built American battleships are at sea and ready for action.

The Japanese have also lost heavily in aircraft-carriers, cruisers and destroyers, and the tendency will be to preserve the remainder of the Japanese fighting fleet for operations nearer home.

An action fought off New Guinea between the opposing fleets would take place at a great distance from Japanese dockyards. These are the nearest repairing bases where large warships can be docked. This would mean that damaged ships would probably become total losses.

The same disadvantage would rest on the American naval forces, which would be about the same distance from Pearl Harbour or Sydney as the Japanese would be from their own home bases.

But behind the American fleet is the British Navy, the war losses of which have all been made good, and which has a margin to spare over and above the requirements of the Mediterranean campaign and the force needed to counter any action by German warships in north European waters.

Japanese commanders owe their spectacular successes in the Pacific to a temporary naval advantage, as already described, but if this situation were reversed, then it would only be a question of time before their conquests were in their turn isolated from the Japanese islands.

The present operations may, from the Allied view-point, be aimed only at a defensive offensive; that is to say, removal of any further threat to the territories of Australia. Later, however, they may be developed on more ambitious lines. Roosevelt has stated publicly that he and his advisers have rejected the policy of inching their way forward from island to island in the Pacific.

Certainly, it would be a long and costly business in difficult climatic conditions to drive the Japanese from the Dutch East Indies Islands one by one. With the exception of Java, these islands are mountainous, and for the most part covered with thick jungle and with a great lack of roads and railways. But if the Japanese could be ejected from the easternmost group, where battles are now raging, it would be possible to mount an assault making use of the predominant air power for the capture of the scattered archipelago formed by the Caroline Islands.

These with the Marshalls further east were mandated to Japan under the treaty of Versailles and, contrary to the terms of that treaty, have been converted into advanced naval and air bases. They are many and scattered and cover an immense area of the ocean. Their conquest would not be so formidable an undertaking as, for example, land operations for the recapture of the great islands of Java, Sumatra and Borneo.

If the Allies could establish themselves in the Caroline Islands, they would be on the flank of the Japanese sea communications between Japanese home bases and the Philippines, French Indo-China and Malaya. Successful operations of this nature would go far to weaken the strong strategical position won by the Japanese during 1942 by

their conquests in the South-West Pacific. Apart from the heavy losses suffered by the Japanese regular navy, merchant ships, acting as transport for troops and supplies, have also been depleted.

Japan is fighting two campaigns. That in China and Burma is being fought by armies and air forces. It will be decided by soldiers, fighting on land, and aircraft, based on landing fields on the mainland of Asia. The second campaign is being fought over the immense ocean distances of the Pacific. It will be decided by warships and by aircraft, which are now an integral part of our naval strength, and by possession of island bases.

The first battles for the defeat of Japan in this ocean campaign are now being fought in and around the great group of undeveloped tropical islands east of New Guinea.

MONKEY METHODS.

The Australian war correspondent, H. J. Summers, says that in the nine months during which they occupied the Mubo Valley in New Guinea, the Japanese had become so strongly entrenched that it probably would have taken great forces to dig them out by direct assault.

On the hills they had built an elaborate system of underground shelters connected by crawl trenches. All were camouflaged in thorough Japanese manner. One thing drove them out of their antnests—our cutting of their supply line from Komiatum.

When they realised what had been done they left quickly, and the correspondent believes that this force constituted one of the main parts of the enemy's strength in the early battle for Mount Thambu, near Salamaua.

The methods of the enemy in this second phase of the struggle for New Guinea are just as monkey-like as in the first phase in Papua. They tie a rope to a bush, retire to a sniping position, and pull the rope to rustle the leaves.

Others in well concealed foxholes have been using rattles to draw our men's fire. These traps succeeded at first, but now the Australians heed them only to the extent that they reveal the presence of snipers.

Japs are doing their best to exploit the psychology of noise in attack. They run forward shrieking a war cry, but it is in these rush attacks that our men have inflicted their heaviest casualties with light machine-guns and automatics.

CHINA DESIRES ECONOMIC LINKS WITH INDIA.
DR. SOONG ON COUNTRY'S DIFFICULTIES.

(*Guy Ramsey in the "Daily Mail"*).

Dr. T. V. Soong—financial genius of China and her Foreign Minister, brother-in-law of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and of the founder of the Republic, Sun Yat-sen—answered all questions shot at him for an hour by a Press conference of 50.

Dr. Soong's performance was a masterpiece. The vast country which has sustained six years of war and occupation, was illuminated as by lightning flashes, as he turned from economics to transport and from military questions to post-war policy.

Frankly he confessed his country's difficulties : "Yes, there is inflation in China", he said, "that is the result of war finance. It does not press too hard on the farmers—as always it is the 'white collar' workers, professors and civil servants with fixed incomes who suffer most. Their stipends never rise with the prices. But we are getting over it in some measure by taxation not in money but in kind. For instance, if a farmer grows rice, he pays his tax in rice. The Government gets rice—and with that it feeds the army.

"There is no starvation in China—except in the occupied areas where the Japanese, like the Germans, say : 'Whoever goes short, it won't be we'. There, unhappily, there is starvation. Not elsewhere, although many things are lacking which you—and he glanced round the men to whom he spoke—would regard as bare necessaries."

On the military side, Dr. Soong acknowledged that where the Burma Road (" which China built with her bare hands") had carried at its peak 25,000 tons of material a month, on the present air route, which is the only route into China for equipment, the United Nations could not reach that figure.

"Until 1941 when Germany attacked Russia, we got the bulk of our supplies from Russia. Thereafter she told us flatly that she had no spare energy to supply us. There is still a trickle coming through, however."

The mention of Russia led to the mention of Communism, and the Minister admitted the existence of "Communist problem" in China, but he said that political unity had been achieved. Communist armies had been incorporated in the national armies. Their rôle had been rather one of guerilla fighting.

Of the Japanese army, he said that there were some 400,000 men in Manchuria—"We do not admit the existence of Manchukuo", he commented wryly—and 30 divisions averaging 25,000 to 35,000 men apiece in China proper.

"As for the policy of conciliation the Japanese are now pursuing", he said, "conciliation is about six years too late. We are not likely to welcome it after what we have been through !

"Yes—they are conciliating. They have abandoned the policy of trying to force the Japanese yen on China. They are supporting puppet Governments and puppet currencies.

"They are even handing seized factories back to the Chinese. But the puppet armies, whenever they can, are killing their officers and coming over to the national armies."

To the post-war future, Dr. Soong brought the same realistic and incisive approach, the same swift unrhetorical eloquence: "If there is no discrimination against our people", he said, "we do not fear the future. With or without foreign assistance, we of China are determined to create a vast industrial reconstruction after the war. There will be great opportunities for foreign capital and for foreign technique. With capital you can always find technicians—as Russia did. We should welcome foreign interest; there will be great opportunities for co-operation—if the Western world cares to avail itself of them. If you want to know what is the Chinese attitude to her allies, read of how American airmen shot down or British seamen driven ashore are helped, no matter what the risk, by the Chinese.

"China in the post-war world will have no need for immigration. All her energies will be needed to reconstruct at home.

"We"—and for the first time his irony was humorous—"have no territorial ambitions. There are Chinese in Siam and Indo-China but so long as they are treated on 'favoured nation' terms—we shall take no action." Dr. Soong looked forward to the building up of close economic link with India. But the end of his text was, as his beginning had been, the war.

Dr. Soong is concerned with military as well as economic and political affairs. The monsoon and landing conditions are hampering the transport of supplies at present, but they will come more rapidly soon. There are plenty of aeroplanes to bring them now. Transport is our greatest difficulty. Sometimes we have torn up rails within the occupied areas—Japan has occupied most of our railway system—and laid them where needed. We have even sent raiding parties through Japanese lines to carry away locomotives bodily."

IF—

(From the South Indian Bulletin.)

If you can hold your tongue when all about you
Are wagging theirs for everyone to hear,
And tell them, even though they seem to doubt you,
That "Columnists" perhaps are very near;
If you can think before you write the letter,
In which you want to tell HER such a lot,
And after cogitation say "It's better
"Just to exercise discretion, is it not?"
If you can realise that foolish chatter
May mean the death in action of your friend,
And YOU will be the brute who to the latter
Simply "handed out a warrant" for his end;
If you can meet the very genial stranger,
Who seems a pretty decent sort of chap,
And sense the possibility of danger,
(He *may* be very pally with a Jap);
If you can find the fool who seeks diversion
By starting silly rumours in the town,
And treat him as your very pet aversion,
And tell him he's a pest, and knock him down;
If you will bear in mind the "Regulations",
And see that they're obeyed by everyone,
And explain them to your wife and all relations,
YOU'LL NEVER HELP THE ENEMY, MY SON!

CECIL RICHARDSON.

'V' DIARY, 1944.

(WILL BE READY IN OCTOBER.)

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THE SECRETARY,
National War Front Bureau,
PUDUKKOTTAI. (South India).

PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CLX (*Batch 5*).

21- 8-43	Municipal Office	6.00 p.m.
22- 8-43	Kiranur	7.00 „
„	Nanjur	7.30 „
23- 8-43	Puvarasakudi	7.00 „
„	Venkatakulam	7.30 „
24- 8-43	Perungalur	7.00 „
„	Adanakkottai	7.30 „
25- 8-43	C. S. M. High School	10.00 a.m.
„	Rani's High School	10.45 „
25- 8-43	College A English	10.45 a.m.
„	College B Tamil	10.45 „
„	Mirattunilai	7.00 p.m.
„	Arimalam	7.30 „
26- 8-43	Pungudi	7.00 „
„	Satyamangalam	7.30 „
27- 8-43	Udayalippatti	7.00 „
„	Killukottai	7.30 „

LECTURE CLXI. (*Batch 1*).

28- 8-43	Municipal Office	6.00 p.m.
29- 8-43	Kudumiyamalai	7.00 „
„	Parambur	7.30 „
30- 8-43	Vengalur	7.00 „
„	Konapattu	7.30 „
31- 8-43	Nachchandupatti	7.00 „
„	Virachchilai	7.30 „
1- 9-43	C. S. M. High School	10.00 a.m.
„	Rani's High School	10.45 „
1- 9-43	College A English	10.45 a.m.
„	College B Tamil	10.45 „
„	Kulipirai	7.00 p.m.
„	Sevalur	7.30 „
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